#20
MOONSTONE
$3.50
THE PHANTOM
Mike Bullock
Zeu

THE PHANTOM

created by LEE FALK

"WORTH BEYOND MEASURE"

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SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR PHANTOM CONSULTANT
ED RHOADES

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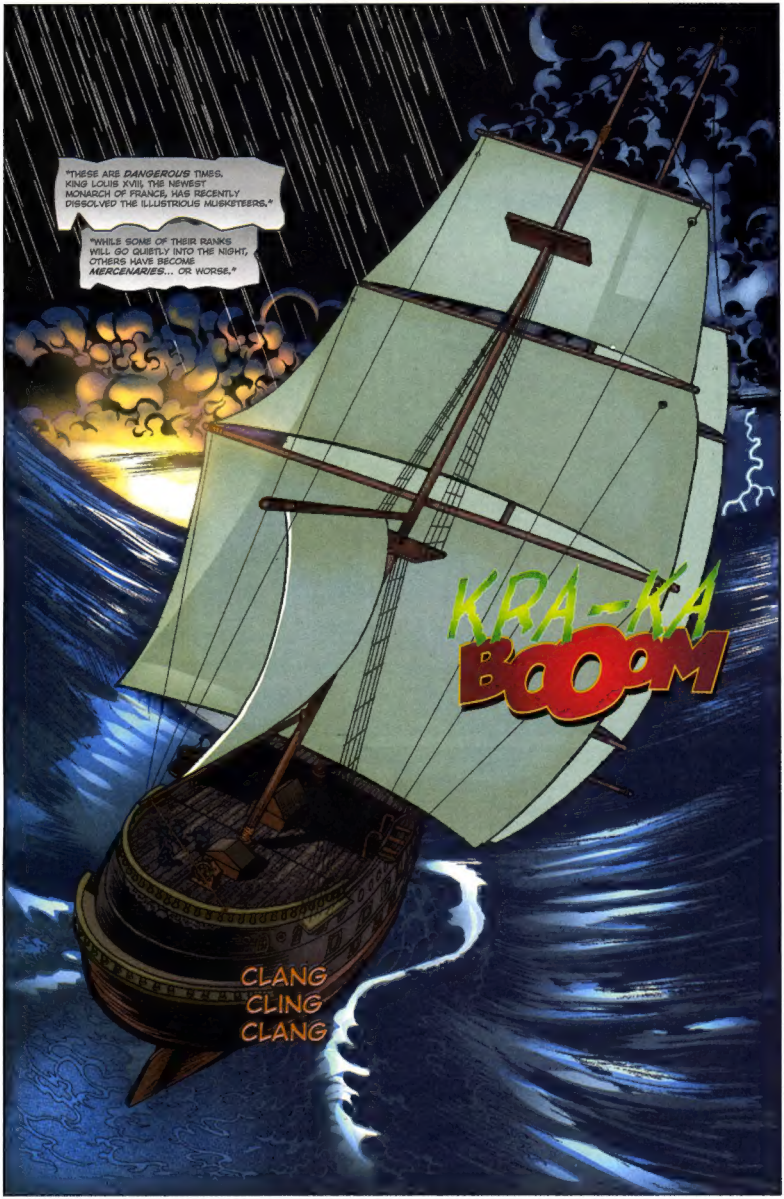
SO, HE WAS THE THIRTEENTH PHANTOM?
YES, KIT.

WOW, THAT'S BEAUTIFUL! BUT, IF IT'S SO VALUABLE, WHY ISN'T IT IN THE TREASURE ROOM?
I DON'T KNOW, HELOISE, LET'S FIND OUT.
WORTH BEYOND MEASURE
The Seas were rough that night.


"THESE ARE *DANGEROUS* TIMES. KING LOUIS XVIII, THE NEWEST MONARCH OF FRANCE, HAS RECENTLY DISSOLVED THE ILLUSTRIOUS MUSKETEERS."
"WHILE SOME OF THEIR RANKS WILL GO QUIETLY INTO THE NIGHT, OTHERS HAVE BECOME *MERCENARIES*... OR WORSE."
KRA-KA BOOOM
CLANG
CLING
CLANG

"A FEW OF THE MORE RENOWNED MUSKETEERS HAVE SOUGHT TO REGAIN THE KING'S FAVOR, BY LAYING THE TREASURES OF THE WORLD AT HIS FEET."
YOU ARE QUITE ZEE SNAPPY DRESSER, BUT NOT SO SMART, OUI?
NOR ARE YOU VERY STRONG, LITTLE MAN.
BUT QUITE BRAVE, I WILL GIVE YOU THAT, FANTOME.
JUST RETURN THE HEART OF LAFITTE AND THIS WILL ALL BE OVER, GENTLEMEN.
NEVER! HOW ELSE ARE WE TO RETURN TO OUR KING'S GOOD GRACES?
KR-KA-KRA
KOOM
TRY GALLANTRY AND HONOR, MY GOOD MAN.
UHN!
MAYHAPS, THE GOOD KING DISBANDED THE MUSKETEERS FOR A REASON?
UNHAND HIM!
WHY MUST YOU FRENCHMEN INSIST ON POOR HYGIENE?

AAAH!!!
BEWARE THE SWORD OF ACHILLE!
NOT UNTIL YOU GET MY POINT.
AAAH!
KRIK-KA BOOOM
DION, YOU SEEM TO BE THE SMART ONE. RETURN THE HEART OF LAFITTE AND I'LL LET YOU LIVE.
AAAH!
ZAT IS UNTHINKABLE! THE HEART BELONGS TO OUR KING! IT IS HIS DIVINE RIGHT TO POSSESS SUCH A THING!
EN GARDE!

KRA-KA-KA
THOOM
FRUSSSHHH

ZAT WILL BE THE LAST OF HIM, ACHILLE, NO?
I HAD HOPED TO RUN HIM THROUGH-HE WAS A VALIANT FIGHTER.
WELL, WELL, WHAT IZ TO STOP LIS FROM TELLING IT ZAT WAY? THE MASKED FANTOME, RUN THROUGH ON ACHILLE'S SWORD!
HAHAHA! RIGHT YOU ARE, DION! IMPALED HE WAS!
ZAT WILL BE MY STORY IN THE MORNING WHEN WE DOCK!
PERCEVAL! GET UP! ZEES IZ NO TIME TO BE LYING ABOUT!
TELL ZEE CAPTAIN TO GET US IN TO PORT BEFORE I RUN HIM THROUGH.

AH, IT IZ SO GOOD TO BE ON DRY LAND AGAIN, NO?
OUI, OUI, DION, VERY GOOD INDEED, AND WILL BE EVEN BETTER WHEN MY DRY PALETTE HAS PARTAKEN OF ZIS TOWN'S HOSPITALITY.
ZEE KING WILL HAVE NO CHOICE BUT TO RETURN OUR TITLES WHEN HE SEES THE TREASURES WE HAVE BROUGHT HIM.
MAYBE HE WILL PUT US IN CHARGE OF A NEW LEGION!
WHAT IZ IT, DION?
I FEEL AZ IF WE ARE BEING FOLLOWED, PERCEVAL.
NONE WOULD DARE TO PULL A TIGER'S TAIL, SUCH AS ZEES.
REMAIN HERE, PERCEVAL. FOLLOW ALONG ONLY AFTER YOU ARE SURE WE ARE NOT BEING FOLLOWED.
OUI.

I HAVE NO TIME FOR ZEE CAT AND MOUSE GAMES, ZEE TAVERN OPENS SOON AND I AM PARCHED.
TWO THIEVES AGAINST A MUSKETEER? ZAY MUST BE MAD! AND POORLY DRESSED AZ WELL! THEY'RE EASILY DISPATCHED THEN I WILL BE IMBIBING IN JUST A FEW MOMENTS!
HALT!
HONTE SUR VOUS!
I BEG YOUR PARDON, MADAME.
HOMME PETIT SALE.
YOU!
CRA-ACK

WHERE IZ THAT PERCEVAL? DO NOT TELL ME HE CANNOT DISPATCH COMMON THIEVES?
MOST LIKELY, HE'S DISPATCHING SOME COMMON BEAUJOLAIS.
NOBLE. WAIT HERE FOR HIS RETURN, THEN BRING HIM TO THE THRONE ROOM.
OUI.
YOU HAD BETTER BRING SOME BEAUJOLAIS WITH YOU, PERCEVAL. ALL THIS MARCHING HAS BROUGHT ON QUITE SEE THIRST.
IT IZ THE SAME WITH HIM EVERY TIME.
"DO YOUR DUTY, PERCEVAL". "YES, DON, BUT FIRST I MUST ZAMPLE ZIS EXCELLENT BORDEAUX."
QU'EST-CE QUEC'EST?
ZAT HAD BETTER NOT BE PERCEVAL IN A DRUNKEN STUPOR. IT IZ NOT SUPPER TIME YET!

PERCEVAL?!
COME BACK HERE!
ZIS IZ NO TIME TO PLAY HIDE AND GO SEEK, PERCEVAL!
COME OUT, PERCEVAL. I HAVE NO PATIENCE FOR ZIS CHILD'S PLAY.
SACRÉ BLEU!

SHOW YOURSELF, VILLAIN!
CLANG
HAVE YOU NOTHING BETTER ZAN ZAT?
ZIS IZ PERCEVAL'S SASH YOU WEAR/ WHAT HAVE YOU DONE WITH HIM?!
IF YOU WILL NOT SPEAK, THEN YOU WILL DIE IN SILENCE!

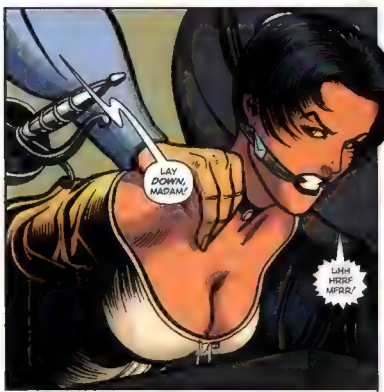
GASP!
BUT, WE KILLED YOU!
CRACK
NOW, PRAY TELL, WHERE HAVE YOU TAKEN THE HEART OF LAFFITE?
"VOICE OF ANGRY PHANTOM CHILLS THE BLOOD"
MRR. MFF GRRH-MFFL!
I WILL NOT TELL YOU!
YOUR EYES BETRAY YOUR WILL, ACHILLE.

I CANNOT BELIEVE YOU WOULD TRY TO BRIBE ZE KING WITH THIS *INSULT!* IT IS *WORTHLESS!*
MY DEAR FRANCOIS, HOW WERE WE TO KNOW THE VASE IS A *FORGERY?*
HOWEVER, I *ASSURE YOU,* THE HEART OF LAFITTE IS PRICELESS!
ZEN WHAT ARE WE WAITING FOR? UNVEIL ZIS *TREASURE* SO THAT I MAY *VERIFY* YOUR CLAIMS!
ZEE KING WILL *SURELY* SEE THAT WE ARE DESERVING OF REINSTATEMENT AFTER THIS.
IF ZEE LEGENDS ARE TRUE, YOU *WILL BE* REWARDED JUSTLY, DION.
MON *AMI!* YOU HAVE *OUTDONE* YOURSELF! WHAT *BEAUTY* ZIS IS!
I TOLD YOU IT WAS BEYOND YOUR *WILDEST* DREAMS.

ZE HEART OF LAFITTE... BETTER KNOWN AS JEANETTE.
IS SHE NOT AS LOVELY IN PERSON AS THE ARTISANS DEPICTED, FRANCOIS?
EVEN MORE SO, DION...
PERHAPS, THOUGH, SHE IS NOT RIGHT FOR ZEE KING. ONE SUCH AS ZIS WILL NOT TAME BASILY. I SHALL HAVE TO TAKE HER TO MY ESTATE AND BREAK HER SPIRIT.
IF THE KING WILLS IT, THEN SO LET IT BE DONE.
ZEE KING MUST NOT KNOW.
IF YOU WERE TO TAKE ZIS UNTAMED WENCH BEFORE HIM, YOU WOULD DEMEAN HIS MASCULINITÉ.
CASTING INSULTS BEFORE THE KING WOULD NOT GET YOU OR YOUR MEN REINSTATED!
ZERE IZ NO TIME FOR HESITATION IN THIS MATTER, DION. I MUST LEAVE IMMEDIATELY! ZEE KING IS EXPECTING HER WITHIN THE FORTNIGHT.
BUT-

TAKE HER TO MY CARRIAGE- WE *LEAVE* WITHIN ZEE HOUR!
WAIT-

WATCH YOUR *TONGUE*, DION. YOU AND YOUR VALIANT MEN HAVE *SACRIFIED MUCH* TO BRING YOU TO ZIS POINT.
T'WOULD BE A *SHAME* WERE IT ALL IN VAIN.
YOUR TIME FOR THINKING IS OVER, NOW YOU MUST AWAIT MY WORD.


LAY *DOWN*, MADAM!
UHH HRRF MRRR!

DO NOT DO ZIS THING, FRANCOIS.
HOW *DARE* YOU PAW AT ME, DION! YOU HAVE BROUGHT ME A PRIZE AND I MEAN TO *TASTE* OF IT FOR THE KING'S SAFETY, NOTHING MORE.
IF YOU DEVIATE FROM OUR PLAN, IT MIGHT ALL COME CRASH-

OH! SHE IS A *SPIRITED* ONE, NO?
MMM

CRASH

FWANGG
WOOSH
CLUNK
WHAM
STOP-
SCHWACK
NOT SO FAST, FANTOME.
IT SEEMS THE SEA HAS GIVEN UP ITS GHOST, NO? HOW VERY FICKLE.
HAVEN'T YOU HEARD? I'M THE MAN WHO CANNOT DIE.
THEN, MY SWORD SHALL TEST THAT THEORY,
NOW.

CLANG
IF WE CANNOT HAVE REDEMPTION, FANTOME, WE WILL HAVE A FUNERAL.
IT'S CONSIDERED BAD FORM TO ATTACK A MAN FROM BEHIND WHILE HE'S ENGAGED IN FUNERAL PLANNING.
CLANG
HOW VERY DEPRESSING.
CLANG
CLING CLANG!
YOU SHALL PAY FOR ZIS, MASKED MAN!

CRACK
DO YOU ACCEPT SILVER?
HOW ABOUT YOU, MONSIEUR?
NOW MY DEAR-
JEANETTE!
YOU WILL LEAVE THIS PLACE, FANTOME, OR ZEES LOVELY DRESS SHALL BE DYED CRIMSON WITH HER BLOOD.
I KNEW WE SHOULD HAVE GONE BACK TO AMERICA.
TAKE YOUR HANDS OFF HER AND I'LL LET YOU LIVE.
YOU WOULD NOT BE SO BRAVE IF YOU COULD WITNESS YOUR OWN FUTURE.
LOOK OUT!

KRANNGGG
ARRRR!
YOU HAD THE ELEMENT OF SURPRISE BEFORE, LITTLE MAN, BUT NO MORE.
CLING CLANG!
KRANG
YOU ARE WEAK, FANTOME...
AND SOON YOU SHALL BE.
BRANNGG
READY
THEN, ALLOW ME TO SAY GOODNIGHT, MY FRIEND.

SMASH
NEVER THREATEN THE MAN I LOVE, MUSKETEER.
HOW DID YOU FREE YOURSELF, MY LOVE?
SMACK
IT SEEMS THE SCENT OF GOOD WILL WAS TOO MUCH FOR HIM.
I KNEW YOU WOULD COME FOR ME, MI AMORE. AND NOW THAT WE HAVE THIS TALE TO TELL OUR CHILDREN, WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE?
"CHILDREN"? WE JUST GOT MARRIED.
AREN'T CHILDREN WHY WE GOT MARRIED?
WE GOT MARRIED BECAUSE I LOVE YOU. AS FOR THE REST, MAYBE WE CAN TALK OF CHILDREN WHEN WE'RE BACK IN BANGALLA.
BEFORE WE RETURN HOME, HOWEVER, WE HAVE BUSINESS IN THE NEW WORLD.
HAVE I EVER TOLD YOU OF WALKER'S TABLE?

HOW COME YOU'RE NOT ROMANTIC LIKE THAT, DAD?
OH HE IS, LOOK AT THIS...
Chronicles Of The 21st Phantom
LET ME SEE!
TELL THEM WHAT HAPPENED LAST WEEK, MY LOVE.
"IT ALL STARTED WHEN YOUR MOTHER AND I..."
NOT THE END.

BEHIND THE MASK

By Ed Rhoades

The Phantom on TV and Silver Screen.

Although The Phantom has been enormously popular as a comic strip for over seven decades, the character never enjoyed the same fame on either the big screen or TV. However, there have been times when the general public has had opportunities to see our favorite hero in those mediums.

The most recent exposure is the 1996 Paramount film, The Phantom, starring Billy Zane. With a script by the late Jeffry Boam, director Simon Wincer presented a retelling of the first Lee Falk story, The Singh Brotherhood, incorporating aspects of two other Falk classics, The Belt and The Sky Band. A period piece set in the 1930's, the film maintained most elements of the comic strip. Largely due to ineffective promotion, the movie stalled at the box office, but due to the video and TV appearances, the character found popularity with new audiences, and it's still aired periodically on the Sci Fi channel.

At the time of the release of the film, the A&E Biography, The Phantom, not only promoted the movie, but provided TV audiences with a look at the history of the Phantom and an in depth look at the character.

An earlier generation of movie goers watched the fifteen chapter Columbia serial, The Phantom, in 1943 starring popular action star, Tom Tyler. Available today on DVD, the serial still holds up as solid entertainment and is considered one of the best examples of the genre.

A follow up serial starring John Hart, whose credits include one season as The Lone Ranger, and more than a hundred films, morphed into Captain Africa when the rights to The Phantom ran out. Promotional stills of Hart as The Phantom are popular among Phantom fans at comic shows.

A lackluster TV pilot starring Roger Creed was filmed in the 1960's, but was never released. The scriptwriter, John Carr, wrote four other stories to be used for the show. Unfortunately, the one used for the pilot was the weakest of the scripts and showed the character in costume only briefly at the beginning and end of the show.

The Phantom was also featured in two syndicated futuristic cartoon series. The first, The Defenders of the Earth, used the Phantom as part of an ensemble of other King Features Syndicate characters, including Mandrake the Magician and Flash Gordon. The second, Phantom 2040, also featured the 24th Phantom and enjoys a cult status because of involvement of Peter Chung creator of Aeon Flux.

Crusader Entertainment and Hyde Park Entertainment have licensed the Phantom for a new action film, but after five years, they are still trying to develop a script. Perhaps the box office success of other comic heroes will pave the way for their project.

A
GREEN GIANT
SCAN
DCP
LIKE IT?
BUY IT!